

BUCKINGHAM PALACE



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Buckingham Palace has served as the official London residence of the UK's sovereigns since 1837 and today is the administrative headquarters of the Monarch. Although in use for the many official events and receptions held by The Queen, the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace are open to visitors every summer.

Buckingham Palace has 775 rooms. These include 19 State rooms, 52 Royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms. In measurements, the building is 108 metres long across the front, 120 metres deep (including the central quadrangle) and 24 metres high.

Today, Buckingham Palace is very much a working building and the centrepiece of the UK's constitutional monarchy, serving as the venue for many royal events and ceremonies from entertaining foreign Head of States to celebrating achievement at Investitures and receptions.

The balcony of Buckingham Palace is one of the most famous in the world. The first recorded Royal balcony appearance took place in 1851, when Queen Victoria stepped onto it during celebrations for the opening of the Great Exhibition. Since then, Royal Balcony appearances have marked many occasions from The Queen's annual official birthday celebrations to watch the RAF Flypast at the end of Trooping the Colour, Royal Weddings, as well as special events of national significance such as the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Opening times

	Opening time	Last admission	Closing time
20 July - 31 August	09:30	17:15	19:30
1 September - 29 September	09:30	16:15	18:30

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Prices:

	The State Rooms	Royal Day Out*
Adult	£25.00	£45.00
Over 60 / Student	£22.80	£40.00
Under 17 / Disabled	£14.00	£24.50
Under 5	Free	Free
Family (2 adults and 3 under 17s)	£64.00	£114.50
Groups (15 people or more)	View group prices	Not available for groups

How to arrive:

By train

London Victoria or London Charing Cross. Visit National Rail Enquiries for times and fares.

By underground

Victoria, Green Park, St. James's Park and Hyde Park Corner. For further information visit the Transport for London website.

By coach / bus

Bus numbers 11, 211, C1 and C10 stop on Buckingham Palace Road. Victoria Coach Station is a 10-minute walk from the Palace.



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HMS BELFAST



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HMS Belfast is a museum ship, originally a Royal Navy light cruiser, permanently moored in London on the River Thames and operated by the Imperial War Museum. During the Second World War, Belfast was initially part of the British naval blockade against Germany. In November 1939 Belfast struck a German mine and spent more than two years undergoing extensive repairs. Belfast was the largest and arguably most powerful cruiser in the Royal Navy at the time. Expected to be disposed of as scrap, in 1967 efforts were initiated to preserve Belfast as a museum ship. Opened to the public in October 1971 Belfast became a branch of the Imperial War Museum in 1978. A popular tourist attraction, Belfast receives around a quarter of a million visitors per year. As a branch of a national museum and part of the National Historic Fleet, Core Collection Belfast is supported by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, by admissions income, and by the museum's commercial activities.

Prices:

Adult Aged 16 – 59 years £18

Child (5-15, under 5s free) Must be accompanied by an adult £9

Family 1 adult and up to 3 children £31

Family 2 adults and up to 6 children £46

Concessions Senior 60+/ student / disabled £14.40

Opening Times

10am-5pm, last admission is at 4pm (closed 24, 25 & 26 December)

Address

HMS Belfast The Queen's Walk London SE1 2JH

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HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



Schools, hospitals, the environment ... lots of things that affect English people's lives are discussed and decided in Parliament. But what is Parliament? The UK Parliament is made up of three parts: the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the King or Queen – known as the Monarch.

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In the House of Commons Chamber, important topics are debated and laws are discussed. It's here that Members of Parliament (MPs) can challenge the work of the Government. Each MP represents a different area of the United Kingdom, called a constituency.

There are about 800 members of the House of Lords. Most are called 'life peers', because they are given membership for their lifetime. Their titles are not passed on to their children. They are chosen for their knowledge and experience, so they can use their special skills to look carefully at new laws.

The third part of the UK Parliament is the Monarch (King or Queen). This role is mainly ceremonial these days. The Monarch meets the Prime Minister once a week to hear what's going on in Parliament, signs any new laws and attends the State Opening of Parliament every year.

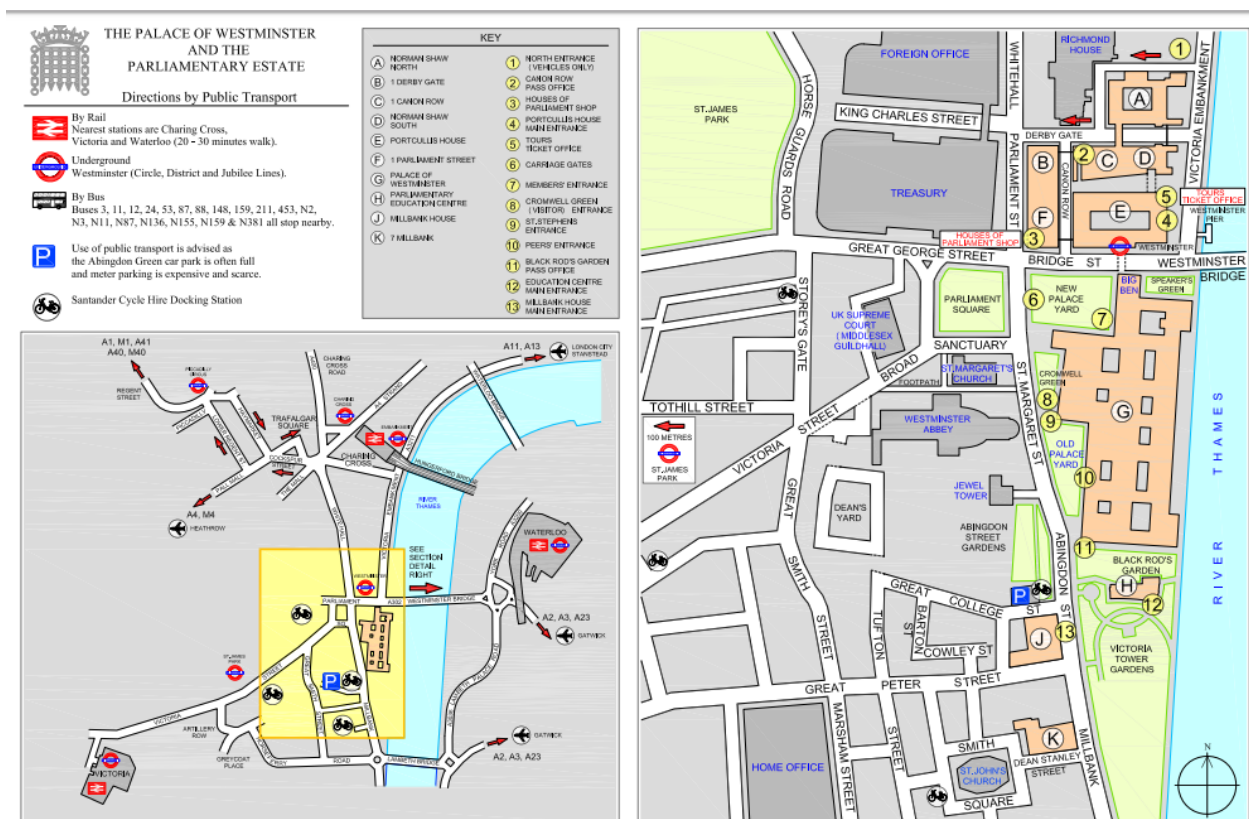
The UK Parliament is open to visitors year round, Monday to Saturday, to attend debates and committee hearings or to take a tour of one of the world's most iconic buildings.

The Houses of Parliament are located in Westminster in the centre of London and are well served by all forms of public transport, most of which is wheelchair accessible.

Address: Houses of Parliament, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA.

Visitors wishing to purchase tickets for tours should go to the Ticket Office located at the front of Portcullis House (post code SW1A 2LW, marked 5 on the map).

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Prices and group rates for tours up to 31 March 2019:

Lower prices apply if you book in advance and we offer a free ticket for one child with each paying adult.

Adults: Advance: £18.50 / Same day: £20.50

Concessions (over 60s, students with ID, members of the UK Armed Forces with ID): Advance: £16 / Same day: £18

Children (age 5 to 15): Free with each paying adult but will still need a ticket. Additional children Advance: £7.50 / Same day: £8.50

Children (under 5): Free but will still need a ticket

Disabled visitors: Ticket prices as above, essential companions are free but will still need a ticket

Group rates apply for groups of 10 people or more if you book in advance.

Adults: £15

Children (age 5 to 15): £7.50

How do I book tickets?

You can book online or by phoning +44 (0)20 7219 4114.

You can also buy tickets from the Ticket Office which is open:

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm (8.45am to 4.45pm on tour days)

Saturday 8.45am to 4.45pm

The Ticket Office is located in front of Portcullis House on Victoria Embankment (postcode SW1A 2LW).

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LONDON EYE



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London Eye is a ferris wheel situated in London. London Eye is a design, engineering and architectural sensation, taking seven years to complete by hundreds of workers from five different countries.

Completed in 2000, this surprising 443 feet (135m)-tall metal Ferris wheel has become one of the city's top attractions and emblematic icons.

The London Eye was the world's largest Ferris wheel until 2006, when it was surpassed by the Nachang Star in Nachang (China). In 2008, the Singapore Flyer marked a new record, standing 541 feet (165 m) tall.

Inside the Eye:

This impressive structure is made up of 32 glass capsules, each weighing 10 tons, and holds up to 25 people.

The wheel turns very slowly but constantly, to allow visitors to get on and off without stopping. The ride takes approximately 30 minutes.

The London Eye offers an incredible panoramic view of the city and its surrounding countryside. On clear days it is possible to see out over 24 miles, although the sun can hinder views of certain parts of London.

Directions

The London Eye, Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London
SE1 7PB

Transport

Tube: Westminster (Circle, Center and Jubilee lines) and Waterloo (Bakerloo, Jubilee, Northern and Waterloo and City lines)

Buses: 211, 77 and 381.

Nearby places

Westminster Palace (421 m)

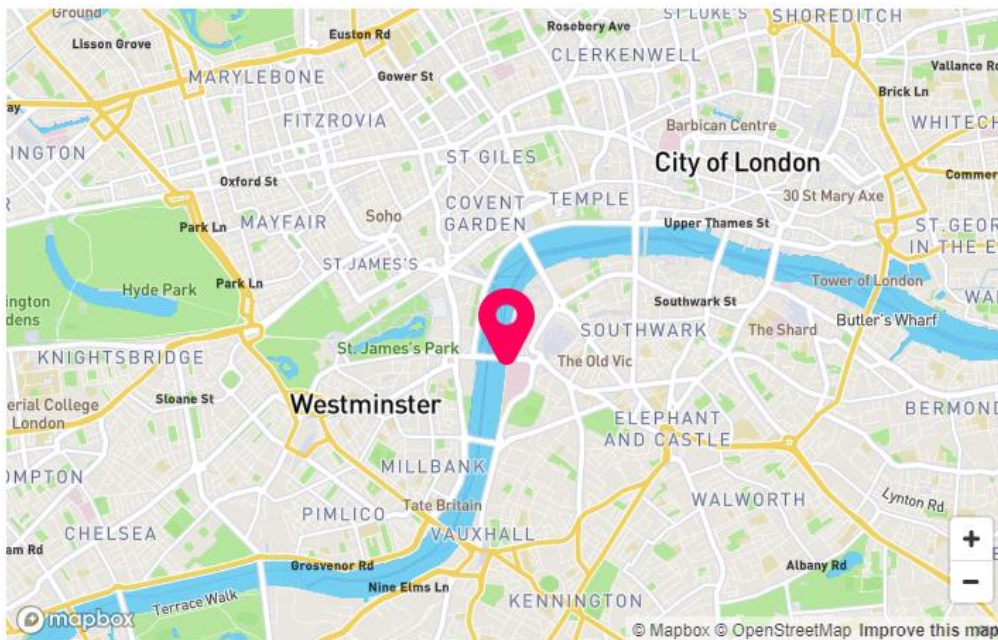
Big Ben (425 m)

Westminster Abbey (725 m)

Trafalgar Square (777 m)

National Gallery (845 m)

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Opening Times

January - March: 11 am - 6 pm

April and May: opening times vary depending on the day but usually one of two schedules applies - 11am to 6pm or 10am to 8:30pm

June, July and August: 10 am - 8:30 pm

September to November: 11 am - 6 pm

December: The majority of the month opening times are 11am to 6pm but between 21st December and new year times vary depending on the day.

Price

Adults: £27.00

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Children (ages 4 to 15): £19.80

Children (less than 3): free entrance

Other packages are available including queue jump, and VIP experiences, ranging from £33 to £54

TOWER BRIDGE



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It is a bascule and suspension bridge on River Thames. It has two towers, in Victorian Gothic style, that are connected with two walkways that are constructed so they can resist horizontal forces from suspended parts of the bridge. Tower Bridge is located close to the Tower of London from which it got its name.

The proximity of the harbor and its location in the direction of the sea required for the bridge to allow the passage of large vessels. For this reason there is a moveable bridge which can be opened to accommodate boat traffic. The mechanism to open the bridge is hidden in the two towers. Until 1976, when the mechanism became electrified, steam power was used to pump water into hydraulic accumulators which powered the engines.

Prices:

Advanced Ticket – Adult £9.80

Advanced Ticket – Child Aged 5-15 - £4.20

Advanced Ticket - Under 5 Free

Advanced Ticket - Adult Concession Disabled visitor, Student (aged 16+), Senior (aged 60+) - £6.80

Advanced Ticket - Child Concession Disabled visitor aged 5-15 - £3.00

Discover the range of fascinating tours on offer; what's on when you visit; and the times you can witness the magic of a Bridge Lift.

Summer Opening Hours: April – September 10:00 – 17:30 (last admission)

Winter Opening Hours: October – March 09:30 – 17:00 (last admission)

Tower Bridge is closed 24 - 26 December and open from 10:00 on 1 January.

Address: Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 2UP, United Kingdom.



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TRAFALGAR SQUARE



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Trafalgar Square is a centre of national democracy and protest. Rallies and demonstrations are frequently held at weekends on different political, religious and general issues. The Mayor supports this democratic tradition, and gives access to the square for such causes.

History of Trafalgar Square:

14th to 17th century: Most of the area now occupied by Trafalgar Square was the courtyard of the Great Mews stabling, which served Whitehall Palace. 1812: The architect John Nash began to develop 'a new street from Charing Cross to Portland Place'. He wanted it to be a cultural space open to the public. 1830: The site was officially named Trafalgar Square. 1832: Work began on the National Gallery. 1838: Sir Charles Barry presented a plan to develop Trafalgar Square. This included the Nelson memorial statue and two fountains. 1843: Nelson's Column, designed by William Railton, was erected 1845: The fountains were built. 1867: Sir Edwin Landseer designed the bronze lions placed on guard at the base of Nelson's Column. 1876: The Imperial Measures were set into the north terrace wall (read more about this below).

In this square there are statues and fountains. The fountains were added in 1845. The mermaids, dolphins and tritons (the male figures with tails like fish) were installed later. The fountains operate on most days.

There are four plinths for statues in the square. Bronze statues stand on three of them: General Sir Charles James Napier in the southwest, Major General Sir Henry Havelock in the southeast and King George IV in the northeast. William Railton designed the column and statue to honour Admiral Nelson, after his victory in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The granite statue was sculpted by E. H. Baily. It is five metres high and stands on a bronze platform made from old guns from the Woolwich Arsenal Foundry. The four bronze panels at the base of the column depict some of Nelson's battles. The lions, designed by Sir Edwin Landseer, are said to protect Nelson's Column.

You can go to this square By Tube, by bus, and by mainline train.

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